Morbius ©1992 Marvel Comics, ARR.

Liefeld's Brigade Launches a Summer Attack

Rob Liefeld's first superhero creation Image Comics, ***Youngblood,*** is a government-sanctioned team that seeks the spotlight; they thrive on public attention and glory. Liefeld's second super-team creation, making their debut this summer, works in a very different manner; their operation is strictly private and not always in the government's best interests. They're Brigade, debuting in their own limited series this July.

Brigade is Kayo, Thermal, Coldsnap, Battlestone, Atlas, Stasis, and Seahawk; their operation is funded by two of their members (Coldsnap and Seahawk) and they're led by Battlestone, who was originally the leader of the Youngblood team now led by Shaft. Created by Rob Liefeld (who also co-plots the issue), ***Brigade*** is written by Marat Mychaels and Hank Kanalz and illustrated by Mychaels and Paul Scott. Kanalz has worked with Liefeld on ***Youngblood;*** Mychaels has experience as Rob Liefeld's assistant, but Brigade is his first solo work.

According to Mychaels, the first issue of ***Brigade*** introduces the super-team and familiarizes the readership with their abilities and the group's structure. "In the second issue," Mychaels said, "an alien comes down and he starts destroying the city; Brigade does their best to save the city, and by the end of the issue, Brigade and the alien are transported up to another planet... We find that this alien is a member of the royal family which controls this particular planet's solar system."

In early 1993, ***Brigade*** will graduate to their own ongoing series, also created by Hank Kanalz and Marat Mychaels. The series will further explore the differences between this group of rebels and the media darling Youngblood teams.

Brigade #1, featuring a cover by Rob Liefeld, is a July release priced at $1.95. Each issue of the four-issue limited series will feature two ***Brigade*** trading cards, inked by a variety of fan-favorite inkers including Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, and Erik Larsen.

by Alex Kirkland

Morbius: A Comic With Bite

It's been over two decades since the first appearance of Marvel's contemporary vampire, Morbius, in the pages of ***Amazing Spider-Man #101.*** After twenty years of off-and-on villainy, Morbius finally earns his hero fangs this July, when the first issue of the ongoing Morbius comic debuts.

In ***Morbius The Living Vampire***, the bloodthirsty hero finds a solution to the quandary of his existence. Naturally, he is reluctant to feed on the innocent--but at the same time, his existence requires a continual blood supply. Morbius' solution is amazingly simple and direct: he will feed on those would spill the blood of innocents, passing instant judgment and carrying out his bloody sentence immediately. Morbius will play an important role in this summer's "Rise of the Midnight Sons" storyline, taking part in the battle with the demonic, the supernatural "mother" of all evil. As the "Midnight Sons" storyline continues into other Marvel titles, Morbius develops a "secret identity" (and a special serum) that allows him to continue to interact with others in a human role.

According to Marvel's Steve Saffel, "The 'Urban Gothic' setting of ***Morbius*** lends itself perfectly to tales in which he stalks drug dealers and supernatural and scientific foes. He will continue to interact with the rest of the Marvel Universe, with plans already in the works for him to encounter Spider-Man, the Punisher, and Wolverine." ***Morbius*** is written by Len Kaminski, who demonstrated his talent for heroic horror in his recent "Werewolf By Night" storyline in ***Marvel Comics Presents.*** Ron Wagner, whose work has appeared in ***Punisher War Journal*** and ***Ghost Rider,*** is the penciller of the series; he is joined by inker Mike Witherby.

Morbius #1, a July 23rd release priced at $2.75, is a special 48-page polybagged issue containing a special poster that can be enjoyed by itself; when put together with the other Midnight Sons posters, though, the entire poster series forms one enormous image.

At the same time that ***Morbius #1*** hits the stands, Marvel will also offer a $1.75 reprint of ***Amazing Spider-Man #101***, the historic first appearance of Morbius.

by Cliff Biggers

I've Got a Secret

Just when did the Silver Age begin? Some say that is was the debut of the Barry Allen Flash in ***Showcase #4*** that kicked off the rebirth of superhero comics; others, however, point to ***Detective Comics #225***, with its introduction of J'onn J'onnz, the Martian Manhunter, as the true beginning of the Silver Age. Whether or not you agree with the latter interpretation, you must admit that J'onn J'onnz plays a unique transitional role in that Golden-Age-to-Silver-Age transition. In the upcoming mini-series ***Martian Manhunter: American Secrets***, his role is explored in a taut, suspenseful period piece that explores the DC Universe of the 1950's.

American Secrets reveals how a transplanted Martian adapted to life on a world gripped by the "Red Scare." In a world where flying saucers are national news, J'onn J'onnz must take care not to create "Green Scare" as he fits in on Earth. His early adventures introduce him to the world of mobsters, murder, mystery, and more. According to DC's Patricia Jeres, "This 3-issue prestige-format miniseries explores the end of the Golden Age, the origin of the Martian Manhunter, and the hidden history of the DC Universe, as big-city cop John Jones investigates an alien conspiracy to conquer the Earth."

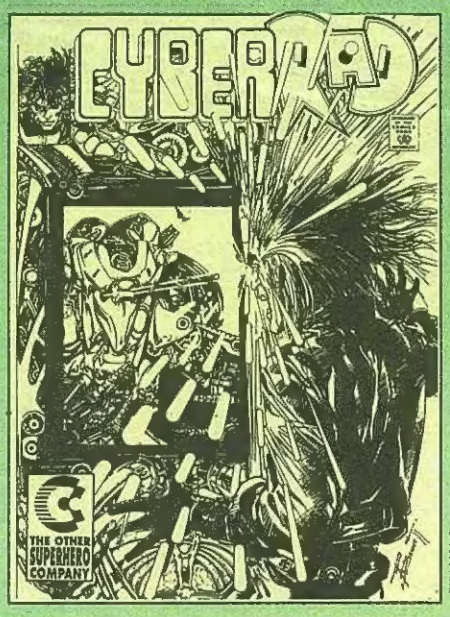
Martian Manhunter: American Secrets is written by Gerard Jones, writer of ***Green Lantern*** and ***Justice League Europe***. He is joined by artist Eduardo Barreto, illustrator of ***Batman: Master of the Future.*** "Barreto complements Jones' excellent sense of period detail with his own dedication to historical accuracy," ***American Secrets*** editor Brian Augustyn said. "But, this project is not simply a nostalgia piece. It's a compelling and suspenseful mystery, where nothing is ever what it seems to be. Even I don't know what will happen next."

Martian Manhunter: American Secrets #1, a 48-page prestige-format comic priced at $4.95, is scheduled for August 6th release.

by Wayne Lee

I Can See Clearly Now...

Remember when Marvel optimistically announced that they'd be offering an acetate cover on ***Cage #1***--only to find out that their printer simply wasn't up to the challenge and couldn't deliver the book after all? Well, as you may recall, ***CyberRad*** was actually the first comic to announce plans for an acetate overlay cover--and according to Kristine Adams of Continuity, the company may well have found a way to "deliver the goods"! Since their standard printer simply couldn't handle the printing on the acetate sheets, Continuity has contracted with an outside supplier to handle the acetate outer covers. "Everyone worked so hard on the cover that I couldn't let them down," Adams said. "There just had to be a way to do it and I think I've found it."



In the meantime, plans continue for ***CyberRad***'s first hologram cover on ***CyberRad Volume 3 #1***; the book is tentatively scheduled for May release. Combined with the recently-released Japanese video game, the negotiations for European editions, and the sellout status of early issues of the series, ***CyberRad*** seems well on its way to becoming Continuity's major breakthrough hit. ***CyberRad Volume 3 #1***, written by Peter Stone and illustrated by Richard Bennett, is priced at $2.95.

by Alex Kirkland

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DC Schedules Hard-Hitting Series

Currently, the only way to reach earth orbit is via a costly and fuel-squandering rocket system. Imagine, though, a system that offered in effect a "sky elevator," a bridge that lifted objects into orbit without the stress and expense of a rocket launch. In **Hammerlocke,** Sir Archer Locke not only imagined such a system, he also designed it; it's called the Starbridge, and it's one of humanity's greatest achievements. Unfortunately, not everyone admires Locke's Starbridge; the Iron Spider has targeted it for destruction, and Locke is determined to prevent them from carrying out their plan. And he just may be able to do it--for, following a near-fatal accident, Locke has been rebuilt as the cyborg known as Hammerlocke. With the aid of a team of super-humans, Hammerlocke is ready to do some Spider-smashing...

Hammerlocke, a nine-issue science fiction maxiseries written by *Tom Joyner* and illustrated by *Chris Sprouse* and *K.S. Wilson*, is scheduled to debut on July 23rd. According to *Patricia Jeres* of DC, "The series presents a masterful vision of the future that will appeal to lovers of super-heroic adventure and science fiction alike." The first 48-page issue of **Hammerlocke** is priced at $2.50; subsequent 32-page issues are priced at $1.75.

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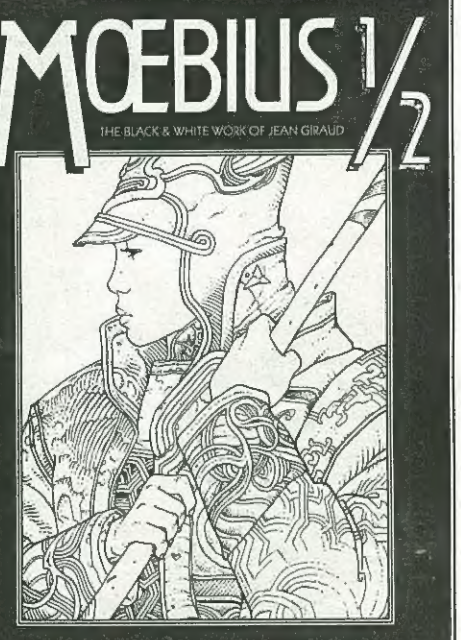
Invest In a Half-Interest in Moebius

When Graphitti Designs created a special *Moebius* 64-page segment for inclusion in their **Moebius 7** limited edition hardcover, they had no idea how many fans who couldn't afford the hardcover would still want the black-and-white material spanning Moebius' entire career. Since there was no way to increase the run on the signed hardcover, Graphitti did the next best thing: they packaged the black-and-white material in graphic novel format and they'll make it available to fans this July!



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"Following the precedent set by the previous Moebius books published by both Epic comics and Dark Horse, we chose to produce this material with the 'look' so it will be compatible with those who walked before us," Graphitti's *Bob Chapman* said. "With Epic having already published **Moebius** books #1 through 8 and Dark Horse having **Moebius 0** under their belt, there was no place for us to go except somewhere in between...thereby creating the unprecedented **Moebius 1/2**."

Moebius 1/2: The Early Moebius and Other Humorous Stories offers a variety of stories, many of which are humorous, spanning the entire career of *Jean Giraud*, a.k.a. Moebius. Some of these stories are printed in English for the first time here. **Moebius 1/2** marks the first time that Graphitti has ever produced a standard-format graphic novel--but judging from the demand for this material, they had no choice this time! **Moebius 1/2**, a $9.95 trade paperback, is scheduled for mid-July release.

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Vamp-ing Again

The **Vampirella** trade paperback and limited series have created such demand for the character that Dark Horse and Harris Publications have put together a new trade paperback collection of Vampirella adventures. **Vampirella: Transcending Time & Space** reprints the Vampirella exploits for the pages of **Vampirella #17-23**, featuring Vampirella and Dracula. Priced at $12.95 for 148 pages, this trade paperback also features a must-see Vampi cover painted by the incomparable *Dave Stevens*. **Vampirella: Transcending Time & Space** is scheduled for late July release.

DC Plans an Endless Summer

Continuing its ongoing poster program, DC has a quartet of new releases set to reach comic shops on July 23rd. Leading off the bunch is **Sandman and the Endless,** a new portrait of Sandman and his mysterious siblings illustrated by *Mike Dringenberg*. *Norm Breyfogle* has illustrated a new Batman poster, **Batman: Shadow of the Bat.** *Michael Collins* and *Jose Marzan, Jr.*, supply the art for the **Peter Cannon - Thunderbolt** posters that accompanies the debut of the new series. Finally, *Simon Bisley* is the artist for the **Lobo** poster. Each poster is affordably priced at $4.95, so start clearing some wall space now!...

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Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

Remember way back in the winter when **CSN Give & Take** reviewed the *Joe Simon-Jack Kirby* **Boys' Ranch HC** that was supposed to be on the stands in January? Remember how you never saw that book and wondered if we had made it all up? Well, we didn't--but it's true that you didn't see the book, because, according to Marvel's *Craig Kunaschk*, "Production delays made the book late enough that we couldn't get it into shops at that time. Everything is ready to go now, though, and this book will definitely be in the shops in July." Marvel has rescheduled this landmark Simon & Kirby book for July 16th release; the 208-page **Boys' Ranch** hardcover, reprinting the entire six-issue run of the adventure series, is priced at $39.95.

The Ungrateful Dead

You'd think that the dead would be satisfied with their own resurrection, but not so; they won't be happy, it seems, until every last living human being is destroyed. That's the problem faced by Ash, the hero of **Evil Dead: Army of Darkness**. In this new three-issue limited series based on the upcoming *Sam Raimi* sequel to **Evil Dead II,** Ash is stranded in the Middle Ages, with only his chainsaw and shotgun to help him battle the hordes of the Evil Dead. Raimi, the director of **Darkman,** is scripting Dark Horse Comics' adaptation himself; he is joined by acclaimed artist *John Bolton*, who is fully painting the interior art for this miniseries. Bolton is one of the most popular cover artists in the comics field; it's all too rare that he finds the time to do any interior comics art--and when he does, it's a noteworthy occasion! **Evil Dead: Army of Darkness #1**, a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for mid-July release.

1992: The Bronze Age

If you've been a Fan of Bronze for a while, then you probably have some questions about Doc Savage's world that you'd like answered. If so, then **Doc Savage: The Manual of Bronze** probably has just the information you're looking for. "D**oc Savage: The Manual of Bronze** contains everything anyone wanted to know about Doc Savage," Millennium publisher *Paul Davis* said. "It's designed to be both a handbook and reference guide not only for Millennium's best-selling **Doc Savage** comic series, but for the entire Savage Mythos." From Doc's aides to his Empire State Building HQ to his Fortress of Solitude, this book offers an inside look at every facet of the Doc Savage world. And what a group of contributors! *Adam Hughes, Tim Truman, Darryl Banks, Brian Stelfreeze*--all of them offer original Doc Savage artwork prepared especially for this book.

Two features will particularly intrigue the Doc Savage fan. First is a look at the full-color model sheets *Doug Wildey* designed for a proposed **Doc Savage** animated series; this is the first time those designs have ever seen publication. Second is a rare Doc Savage comic strip, written by *Lester Dent* (who adapted his own *Sargasso Ogre*) and illustrated by pulp artist *Paul Orban*.

According to **Manual of Bronze** editor *Mark Ellis*, "**Doc Savage: The Manual of Bronze** is certain to appeal to "Docoholics" of all ages and collectors of bronze man memorabilia. It seems that people are discovering Doc Savage all over again..." **Doc Savage: The Manual of Bronze #1,** a May release, is priced at $2.50.

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QUICKSHOTS

Spawning a New Record

It was just a couple of months ago that **CSN** told you about the sales record set by *Rob Liefeld*'s **Youngblood #1,** which had a print run in excess of 600,000 copies and still had to go to a second printing. Well, Youngblood's record didn't hold for very long at all before being transcended by yet another Image comic, *Todd McFarlane*'s **Spawn #1**. According to Image, orders for Spawn #1 top 1.7 million copies, making Spawn the best-selling non-Marvel/DC title of all time.

"Everyone involved with Image Comics is pleased to see the way that direct market fans, retailers, and distributors have responded to the imprint," Malibu Comics publisher *Dave Olbrich* said. "And having Spawn, only the second title offered from Image, break the million copy mark is very exciting."

Olbrich urges fans to keep an eye out for **Spawn,** which should ship in the next few weeks; Image and McFarlane have both said that there will not be a second printing of this book.

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Cosmic Shop News

Mike Mignola is one of the hottest cutting-edge artists in the comics industry today--but when he illustrated DC's multi-hero miniseries **Cosmic Odyssey** a few years ago, he was a tyro who was turning heads. Mignola fans who missed out on that early Mignola work will be able to enjoy it in a single volume when DC releases its **Cosmic Odyssey Trade Paperback** on July 9th; this 200-page book features Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, and many other well-known DC heroes as well as many of Jack Kirby's Fourth World characters, including Darkseid. Mignola has illustrated a new cover for the collection; **Cosmic Odyssey** is priced at $19.95. Incidentally, if you're excited about the cosmic **Infinity War** series from Marvel, then you should take a look at **Cosmic Odyssey** as well: it's written by Jim Starlin, the mastermind behind **Infinity Gauntlet** and **Infinity War**.

JR² Volume Eight of **Stabur Home Video's Comic Book Greats** Series focuses its attention on a father and son team that are responsible for some of the best comics work in Marvel's history: *John Romita Senior and Junior*. John Romita Senior is acclaimed for his classic work on **Daredevil** and **Spider-Man;** his son has become a fan favorite with his work on **Daredevil** and **Punisher War Zone**, and will soon be illustrating one of Marvel's **X-Men** titles. The two Romitas are both featured on this tape as they talk with *Stan Lee* about their comics work, their style, and the secrets behind their talent. **The Comic Book Greats Volume Eight: The Romitas,** available in VSH format only, is priced at $19.95; look for it in June.

Presenting a Model Villain!

Undoubtedly, a number of villains would envy Venom's success: he has not only become one of the most popular adversaries in the Marvel Universe, but next year he'll actually be awarded his own series! You really know that Venom has made it into the supervillain elite, though, when he is honored with his own model kit! In July, Horizon Hobbies is releasing the **Venom Vinyl Kit**, a 12.5" tall vinyl kit featuring the twisted Spidey foe in all his malevolent glory. The **Venom Vinyl Kit** is priced at $29.95; it ships unassembled in an illustrated collectors' box.

Heroes in Hiding

It's a rough time to be a Marvel superhero: first, villainous doppelgangers are tracking them down in **Infinity War,** and now, in the **Spider-Man Annuals** this summer, heroes are disappearing from the streets of New York! "The Hero Killers" teams up Spider-Man and the New Warriors to find out just who's removing the heroes from the scene--and they have very strong motivation to solve this one, since one of the heroes who's missing is Speedball!

The story begins in **Amazing Spider-Man Annual #26**, a June 18th release; from there it continues into **Spectacular Spider-Man Annual #12,** a June 25th release, and **Web of Spider-Man Annual #8,** a July 2nd release (all three Spider-Man annuals are written by *David Michelinie* and illustrated by *Scott McDaniel* and *Keith Williams*). The storyline concludes in **New Warriors Annual #2**, a July 9th release written by *Fabian Nicieza*. All four annuals feature covers by ace **Amazing Spider-Man** artist *Mark Bagley*.

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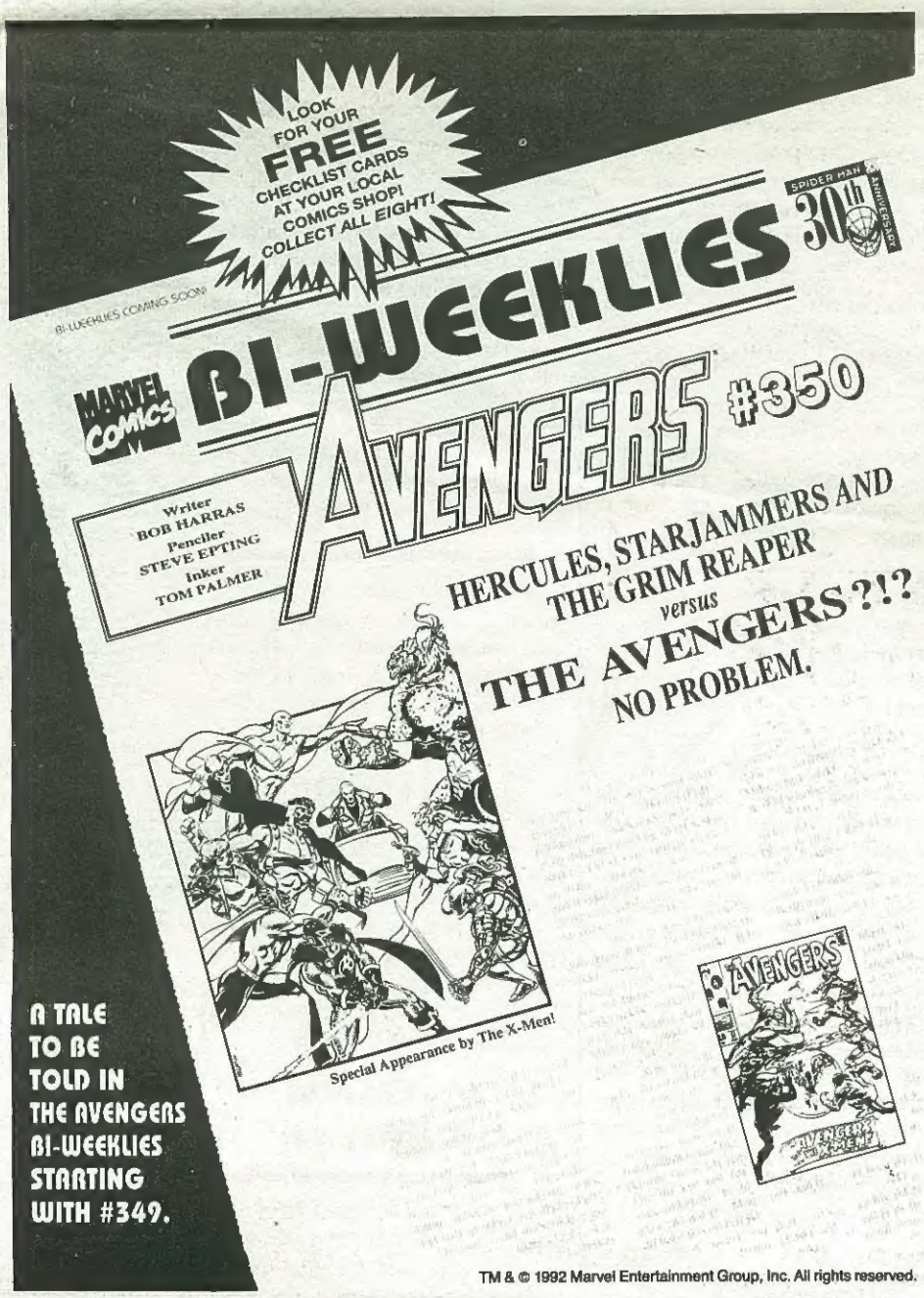
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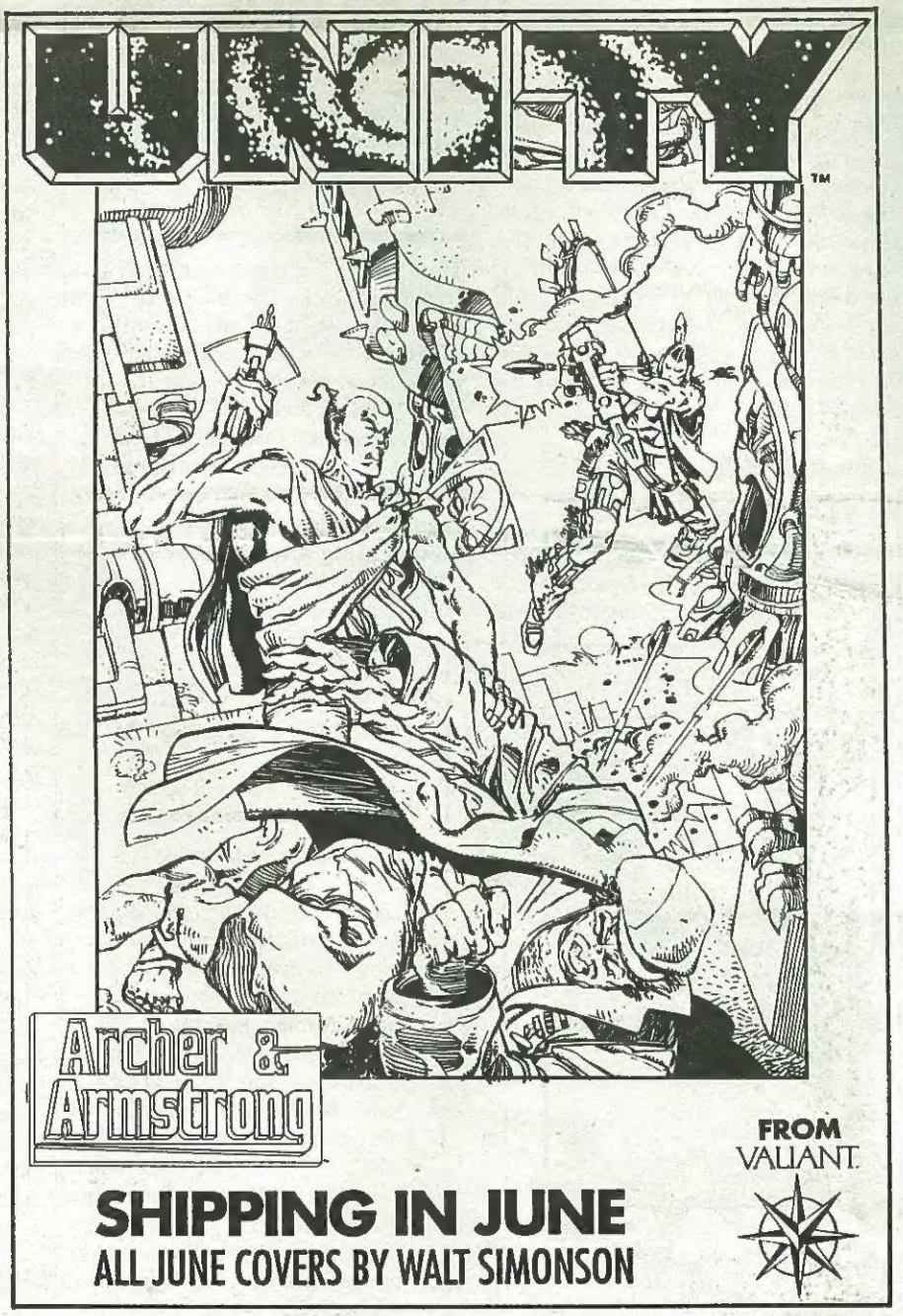


JUNE HOT PICKS

by cliff biggers

Get ready for the summer comics boom! With all that vacation time you've been saving, you'll have plenty of time to read--and you're going to need it, judging from the stacks o' comics that'll be filling the stands beginning in June. With a record number of books scheduled for release this month, our Hot Picks may be particularly handy to ensure that you don't miss out on any of June's primo comics and comics-related items.

Marvel Swimsuit Special 1992

ALIEN NATION: THE LOST EPISODE 1

When Fox aired the first season cliffhanger episode of ***Alien Nation*** in the spring of 1990, fans of the series never dreamed that they'd have to wait two years to find out how the episode ended--or that they'd have to read the finale in a comic book rather than seeing it on television. Fox cancelled the series and left fans hanging in limbo--but Adventure Comics is seeing to it that, at last, the ending is revealed. ***Alien Nation: The Lost Episode*** follows the original script that would have been aired in September of 1990, had Fox not dropped the series; this is the first time that the climax of that episode has been revealed, so ***Alien Nation*** television fans won't want to miss this one! (And even though ***Alien Nation*** was one of the lowest-rated television series in prime time, remember that it's television audience was still many times the readership of the average comic book--and once those viewers find out about this comic, it's going to have a very short shelf-life indeed...) *(Adventure, $4.95)*

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 365

If you only pick up one Spidey hologram issue this summer, this is the one to have. The flagship Spidey title reintroduces Peter Parker's parents (or does it?...), it offers the origin of Spidey as seen through Peter Parker's eyes, it features an assortment of great backup pieces, and it's still riding high on the phenomenal success of the Carnage three-part storyline. Buy it when you see it, because the odds are you won't get a second chance. *(Marvel, $3.95)*

AVENGERS 350

This has been quite a year for Marvel anniversary issues--and almost all of 'em have been instant sellouts. ***Avengers #350*** is sure to follow the pattern; after all, it features Professor X, Cyclops, Quicksilver, Val Cooper, Guido, and the Starjammers--and whenever super-teams get together, you know that a fight is sure to ensue!... Add a gatefold cover, Steve Epting art, and a look at milestone Avengers episodes, and you have a can't-miss comic. *(Marvel, $2.50)*

BATMAN RETURNS MOVIE ADAPTATION

Do we even need to explain why this one is on the charts? With everyone pegging ***Batman Returns*** as *the* movie to beat this summer, fans won't want to miss out on this official comics adaptation. Will there be scenes in the comic that didn't make the final edit of the film? Maybe so, maybe not--but we won't know until June 18th, when this book hits the stands. Fans'll be looking for this comic all summer long--but the odds are it won't be on the racks too long after the movie opens. *(DC, $5.95)*

BATMAN: CAT-WOMAN DEFIANT

BATMAN: PENGUIN TRIUMPHANT

Here's another pair of Batman books sure to sizzle thanks to the upcoming Batman film. Catwoman and the Penguin play prominent roles in the new film, so it's only natural that comics focusing on these two Batman adversaries should prove particularly hot this summer. Of course, Batman plays a prominent role in both one-shots--and anything with a bat on it is going to be very popular this summer... *(DC, $4.95@)*

DOOM FORCE SPECIAL 1

A few months back, the Doom Patrol offered their rather unique spin on the Lee-Kirby Marvel Age of Comics; this time around, the target is the Liefeld-Lee mutant books--and X-Force in particular. This offbeat Doom Patrol special presents the DP as they might have developed in the modern Marvel Universe--and you can be sure that no one's playing this one totally seriously. A number of top artists contribute to ***Doom Force Special #1,*** but the concept alone should guarantee strong demand. *(DC, $2.95)*

GUY GARDNER REBORN 2

Okay, here's the bad news: due to production delays, there's no ***Lobo's Back*** this month. Now, the *good* news: Lobo plays a prominent role in the ***Guy Gardner*** miniseries, as he helps Guy find his super-identity. Guy Gardner is quickly moving into the upper echelon of DC fan-favorites, so this miniseries is sure to sell out--particularly when it becomes common knowledge that an ongoing ***Guy Gardner*** series follows it up, beginning in August! *(DC, $4.95)*

june's overlooked sizzler

The comics racks are often so packed with four-color superhero adventures, horror extravaganzas, and experimental series that it's easy to overlook one of the most successful comics lines on the stands today: Archie's variety of titles featuring the Riverdale gang. This month, the "good girl" of the Archie line gets her own title--and with fifty years of popularity behind her, isn't it about time? ***Betty #1*** isn't anything out of the ordinary for the Archie line--in fact, it's the consistency of the line that's such a vital part of Archie's perennial popularity. Fans are attuned to focusing on first issues, so ***Betty #1*** is a great chance for fans to add a new premiere to their collections and, at the same time, remind themselves that comics can be thoroughly enjoyable without featuring a single mutant or super-slugfest.

INVISIBLE PEOPLE PART ONE: SANCTUM

Any time Will Eisner does a new book, it deserves a place on any fan's shelves. In this case, though, any and every fan can afford this all-new Eisner comic. Kitchen Sink is releasing this graphic novel as a four-part comic-book-format series so that everyone can enjoy Eisner's compelling view of the overlooked and the downtrodden. Eisner 's position as a legendary figure in the industry, the comics equivalent of Frank Capra, is already guaranteed--and when a legend continues to offer his fans new creations like this, how can they afford to pass them up? *(Kitchen Sink, $2.95)*

J.N. WILLIAMSON'S MASQUES 1

betty 1

Horror anthologies abound--but this isn't just any horror anthology. Editor Mort Castle has prepared adaptations of some of the

CSN HOT PICKS

best horror stories by today's popular writers, including an outstanding tale by Robert McCammon. The contents of this book make it a must-have--and the Boris Vallejo cover, a true rarity in the comics market, make it a sure sellout. *(Innovation, $4.95)*

JAMES BOND 007: SERPENT'S TOOTH 1

Almost twenty years ago, Doug Moench and Paul Gulacy first introduces a very James Bond-ish character into their ***Master of Kung Fu*** storyline; those of us who enjoyed Bond's exploits appreciated the homage and wondered what a real Bond comic by the team would be like. We don't have to wonder any longer; thanks to Dark Horse, Moench and Gulacy get to try their hand at Bond adventures--and from the first few pages, it's clear that their inspiration is the classic Connery Bond, not the wimpy Moore imitation. Sure, there have been other James Bond comics--but none of them have been this good! *(Dark Horse, $4.95)*

LEGENDS OF ARZACH: THE ARZACH GALLERY VOLUME ONE

It's been fifteen years since American audiences first had an opportunity to enjoy the work of Moebius; now, in celebration of the anniversary, Tundra and Starwatcher Graphics have called on some of the industry's most innovative artists to pay tribute to Moebius and his most famous creations. Contributors to the entire six-volume series include Brian Bolland, Mike Mignola, Bill Sienkiewicz, Richard Corben, John Bolton, Paul Chadwick, Dave Gibbons, Will Eisner, Joe Kubert, Katsuhiro Otomo--the list goes on, forming a virtual who's who of today's most popular illustrators. Moebius himself even contributes a few new pages to each gallery. None of this material will ever be reprinted, so don't miss out! *(Tundra, $12.95)*

MARVEL 1992 SWIMSUIT SPECIAL

Okay, there's not much of a story here--but there is some really spiffy artwork, spotlighting some of Marvel's best-known heroes in their beachwear. The last ***Swimsuit Special*** sold out almost as quickly as the Sports Illustrated issue that inspired it--and it wasn't even swimming season! *(Marvel, $3.95)*

NEW TITANS 89

There's a new Titans book coming up next month, and it's sure to be one of the hottest DC titles of 1992--but this issue of ***New Titans*** is likely to be an overlooked scorcher, because it lays the foundation for the storyline that will introduce ***Team Titans***. Marv Wolfman is rapidly restoring New Titans to its glory-days position of prestige; here's a chance for fans to get with the program before everyone discovers the Titans again. *(DC, $1.75)*

RAY BRADBURY CHRONICLES VOLUME ONE

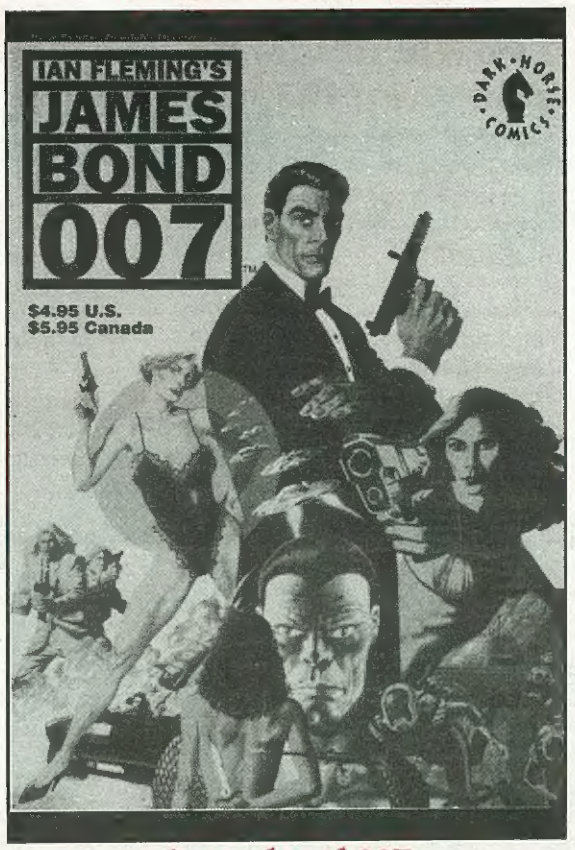
Here's a rare opportunity indeed: Ray Bradbury has autographed this limited edition hardcover featuring comic book adaptations of some of his best stories--and any time you have a chance to get an autographed Bradbury book, don't think twice! Bradbury's not the only one who's autographed this collectible hardcover; most of the artists responsible for the adaptations have also signed this ultra-limited edition. *(NBM, $45)*

ROBOCOP VS. TERMINATOR 2

Frank Miller story. Walt Simonson art. Two of the hottest licensed film properties in the sf/comics world. What else do you want?

Both Miller and Simonson have proven that they "have legs"--that is, their books have a continual drawing power that goes beyond that of the average comic book. This series also marks Dark Horse's first foray into the world of RoboCop, and that has a certain appeal in itself. This is a book that's likely to be much more popular than anyone anticipated. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

cover of the month



james bond 007

SAVAGE DRAGON 1

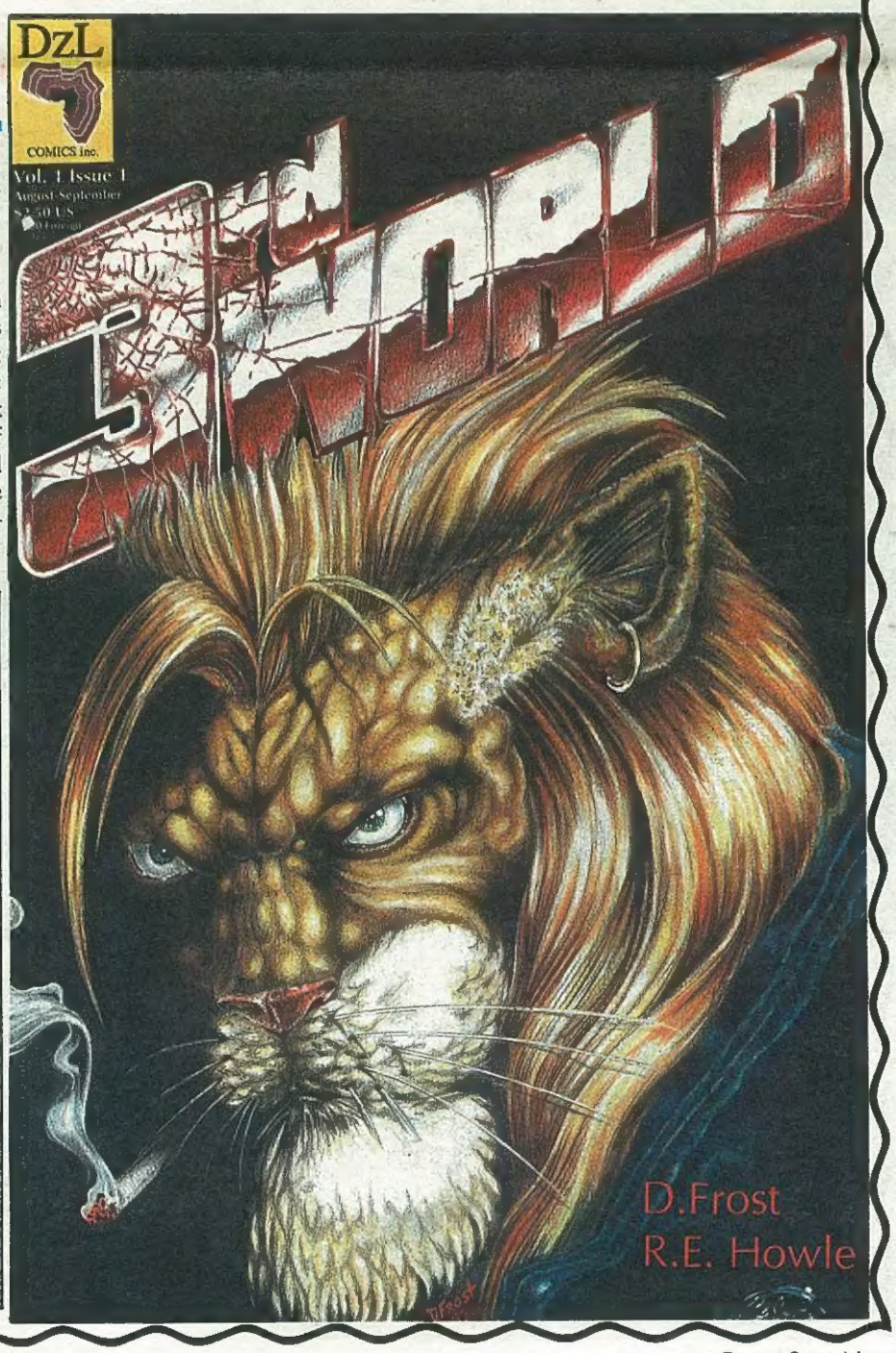
Image Comics strikes again: this time, it's Erik Larsen who's the mastermind behind Image's newest hero. The Dragon has appeared before in an issue of Megaton, but that predates Erik Larsen's climb to comics star status. ***Savage Dragon*** is a "grim 'n' gritty" book that features the sort of urban adventure that comics fans love. Savage Dragon also stands to benefit from the instant sellout status of ***Youngblood #1***; fans are keeping an eye out for Image Comics premieres, so almost every superhero fan will be grabbing a copy of the first issue when they see it. *(Image, $1.95)*

SPACE USAGI 1

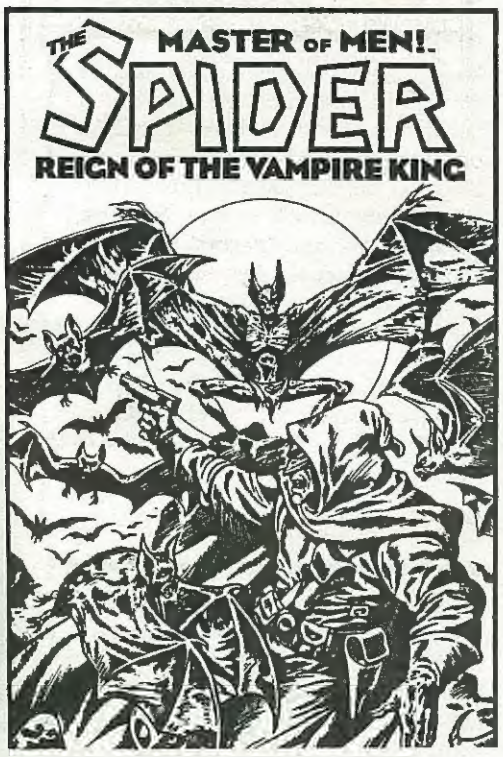
Stan Sakai's ***Usagi Yojimbo*** remains one of the best-selling books in the Fantagraphics line, thanks to Usagi's equally impressive art and story. Now Sakai has found a way to transplant his anthropomorphic rabbit adventures into the future--although it isn't really Usagi Yojimbo, but a very similar descendant who stars in this book. Whether Sakai sets his tales in feudal Japan or the distant future, though, the result is the same: consistent funny-animal talent with a timeless appeal. *(Mirage, $2)*

SPAWN 2

Once 'spawn a time, an artist named



JUNE HOT PICKS



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Todd McFarlane spawned a new era in comics sales with his megahit ***Spider-Man #1***. Now he's ready to duplicate the success with his own company–and judging from initial fan excitement, he'll be quite successful at it! Todd McFarlane is committed to maintaining a monthly schedule on this book, and that's going to contribute significantly to making Spawn Image's most popular title. Fans have a strong preference for monthly continuing titles over miniseries, and ***Spawn***'s the only Image title so far that fills the bill. McFarlane is adamant that there will be no second printings on Spawn, so it's pretty safe to assume that you'd better grab this one the first time you see it... *(Image, $1.95)*

SPIDER: REIGN OF THE VAMPIRE KING 1

Tim Truman's back as Eclipse's Spider man–and a lot of arachnaficionados are going to be pleased to hear it! A couple of years ago, Truman's first ***Spider*** series was a sellout success; now he's back with everything a Spider-fan could ask for–brutal pulp action, monstrous villains, moody noirish art, and cliffhanger endings (sorry, though: no Hitler in his pj's this time around). Truman has the sort of track record most comics creators envy, heating up the racks with one sizzler after another; it's obvious that he has a special affinity for the Spider, though–and so do his fans! *(Eclipse, $4.95)*

STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION TRADING CARDS

Another successful enterprise from the Skybox gang (and we knew 'em when they were still calling themselves Impel...): this time around, their Trek card series focuses on ***STNG*** with a 120-card series including a Gene Roddenberry commemorative card and four holograms (and this time, the Skybox folks guarantee that there'll be a reasonable scattering of holograms in each pack–unlike the first series, where holograms were rarer than joke books in a Vulcan library). *(Skybox, $1.25/pack)*

TABOO 6

Another hot Todd on our list--but it's Sweeney Todd, not Todd McFarlane, that we're talking about here. Neil Gaiman and Michael Zulli are bringing the Barber of Ill Will to comics in an upcoming ***Taboo*** serial–but before they begin their serial, they're producing a special "penny dreadful" that'll be available only with this issue of ***Taboo.*** That's just the first half of ***Taboo #6***'s one-two whammy: Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell are back with forty more pages of **From Hell,** the acclaimed Jack the Ripper saga. *(Tundra, $14.95)*

UNITY 1

Unity may not be the *biggest* crossover series of the summer in terms of total books sold, but it's certainly one of the *hottest* in terms of fan response. Unity seems to have brought the entire Valiant Comics line to a boil, and no fan is going to want to miss the finale to the whole storyline. Since the quantities on this book are strictly limited, it's likely that some fans are going to be left out–don't be one of them! *(Valiant, $1.50)*

WIZARD: THE GUIDE TO COMICS 11

If you blinked, you missed out on ***Wizard #10*** with its special Youngblood trading card; if you aren't careful, you're going to find another empty space on the racks where ***Wizard #11*** briefly made its home. It seems that this is one Wizard quite adept at vanishing--particularly when special trading cards are polybagged with each issue (in this case, it's a Todd McFarlane Spawn card that's generating all the heat). *(Wizard, $2.95)*

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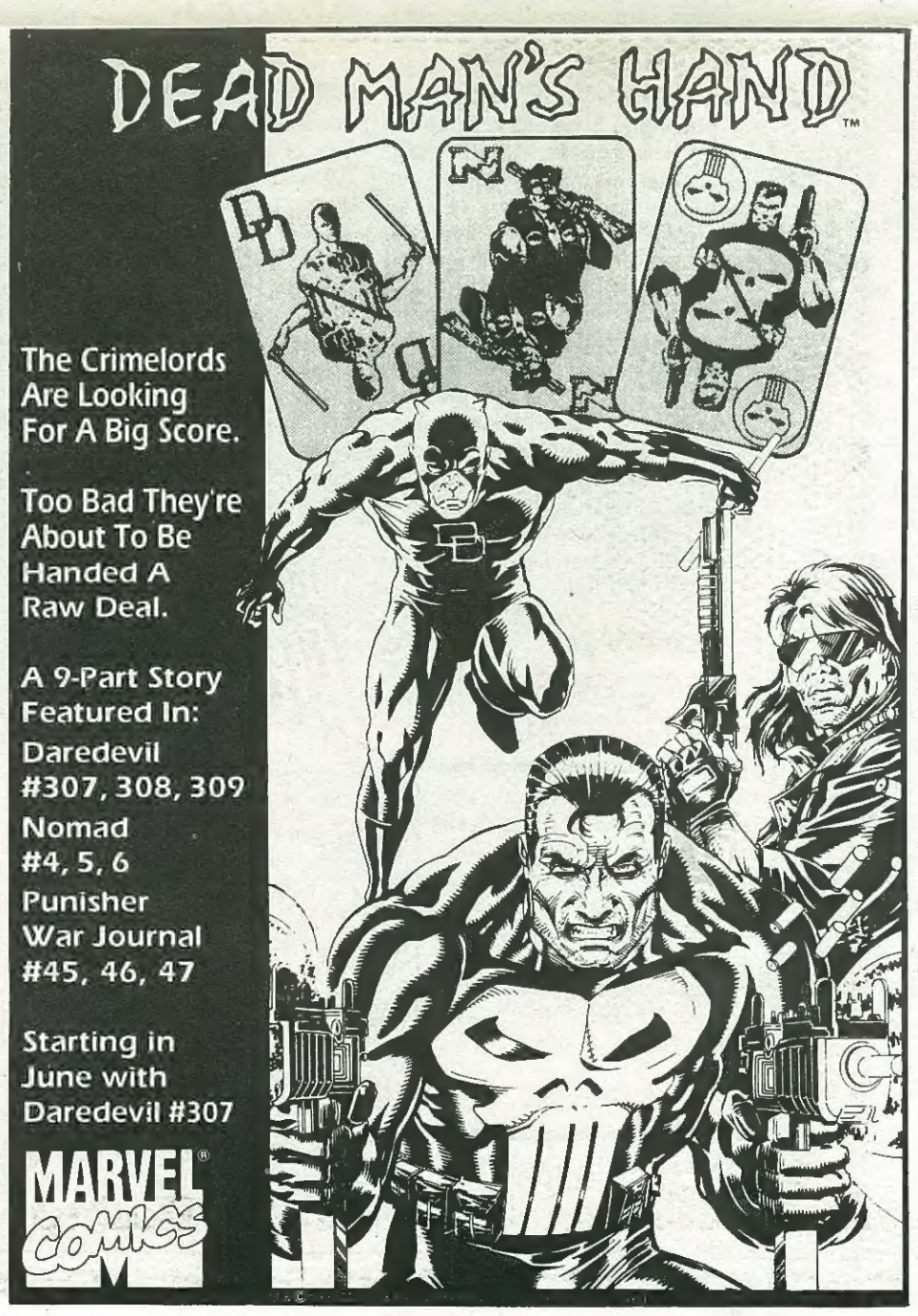
DEAD MAN'S HAND™
The Crimelords Are Looking For A Big Score.
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Nomad #4, 5, 6
Punisher War Journal #45, 46, 47
Starting in June with Daredevil #307
MARVEL COMICS

Always Carry Your Dino's Club Cardz

It's a shame that dinosaurs aren't still around to enjoy their new-found popularity; what with travelling exhibits, best-selling novels, popular television shows, upcoming films, and comic book series, these giant reptiles are doing pretty good for a species that's been extinct for millions of years. This summer, dinosaurs earn their own card series when ***Dinocards*** debuts. These high-quality cards feature a full-bleed image of a different dinosaur on the front of each card, with scientifically-accurate statistics and background info on each card. ***Dinocards,*** priced at $1.75 per pack, are scheduled for June release. The publishers also plan to offer twenty different ***Dinocards Postcardz,*** priced at $9.95 per set; as with all specialty items of this sort, let the friendly folks at your local comic shop know that you're interested--and tell 'em that you heard about it in ***CSN***...

Cards Guaranteed To Drive You Mad

Can you believe it? ***Mad Magazine*** is celebrating its fortieth anniversary later this year! To celebrate four decades of Madness, Lime Rock International is producing a limited edition ***Mad Trading Card Series*** featuring an overview of the magazine's history in a 55-card series. The cards will reproduce some of the best ***Mad*** covers of the first forty years; the backs will feature ***Mad*** characters and satire, a special "fold-in" feature, two thousand instant winner numbered press sheets, holographic stamped promo cards, and randomly inserted limited edition Alfred E. Neuman hologram cards. Lime Rock is producing only 7500 cases of the cards total; look for the ***Mad Magazine Trading Cards,*** priced at $1.25 per pack, in July.

A Sharp Set o' Cards

Wolverine may be brutal, judgmental, ill-tempered, and potentially deadly, but he's also one of the most-loved heroes in comics today. This summer, Comics Images will offer a "this-is-your-life" look at Wolverine's career in their ***Wolverine: From Then Til Now II*** trading card series. These cards feature ninety of the most memorable moments from Logan's career, illustrated by some of the best-known Wolverine artists. As a bonus, Comics Images is randomly inserting six special Prism Cards in the ten-card packs. ***Wolverine From Then 'Til Now II,*** priced at $1 per pack, is scheduled for July release. At the same time, Comics Images is also offering ***Wolverine From Then Til Now I*** as a complete set; this 45-card set, initially released in early '91, is a forerunner to the 90-card series. ***Wolverine From Then Til Now I*** is priced at $11.99 per set.

And Now For Something Completely Different...

Mother Productions, the company that has brought you two sets of ***Human Freaks and Oddities*** trading cards, is back with yet another set. These forty cards, packaged in an illustrated box, feature "actual freaks and sideshow attractions," according to the publisher. "Branded 'Freaks of Nature' by society, they served to astonish and amuse curious onlookers. Most of them choose to remain in the circus where they feel most comfortable." The rather bizarre set of collectors' cards is priced at $9.95; let your local comic shop know that you're interested. (And incidentally, the first two sets of cards are also available, although in limited quantities;you might want to ask about them at the same time!)

Star Trek: The Next Generation of Cards

Impel's ***Star Trek 25th Anniversary Trading Cards***, released last year, split their run equally between Classic Trek and STNG cards; in the third set of Star Trek cards from Skybox (the new name for the company formerly known as Impel), however, the company has chosen to specialize. ***Star Trek: The Next Generation Trading Cards,*** as the name implies, feature only cards from the current television series. The 120-card set features a 20-card "technical data" subset; special "production cards" with behind-the-scenes photos and background info; a Gene Roddenberry commemorative card; and four holograms (which will be much more readily available than the holos in the first two sets, which have proven almost impossible for collectors to acquire). As with Skybox's ***Marvel Universe Series 3***, these cards will feature full-bleed images and high-quality photo reproduction. Priced at $1.25 per pack, Skybox's ***Star Trek: The Next Generation Trading Cards*** are slated for June release.

LAST WEEK **CSN** FEATURED THE COMPLETE JUNE CHECKLIST. NEED A HANDY LISTING OF EVERYTHING DUE OUT IN JUNE THAT YOU CAN REFER TO ALL MONTH? YOU HAD TO BE HERE LAST WEEK TO GET ONE.

NEXT WEEK **CSN** IS A SPECIAL ALL-BATMAN BLOW-OUT FEATURING A PREVIEW OF *BATMAN RETURNS* AND A SIZZLING COVER FEATURING MICHELLE PFEIFFER AS CATWOMAN. YOW!

COMIC SHOP NEWS

MISS A WEEK AND YOU MISS A LOT!

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____ Phone _____

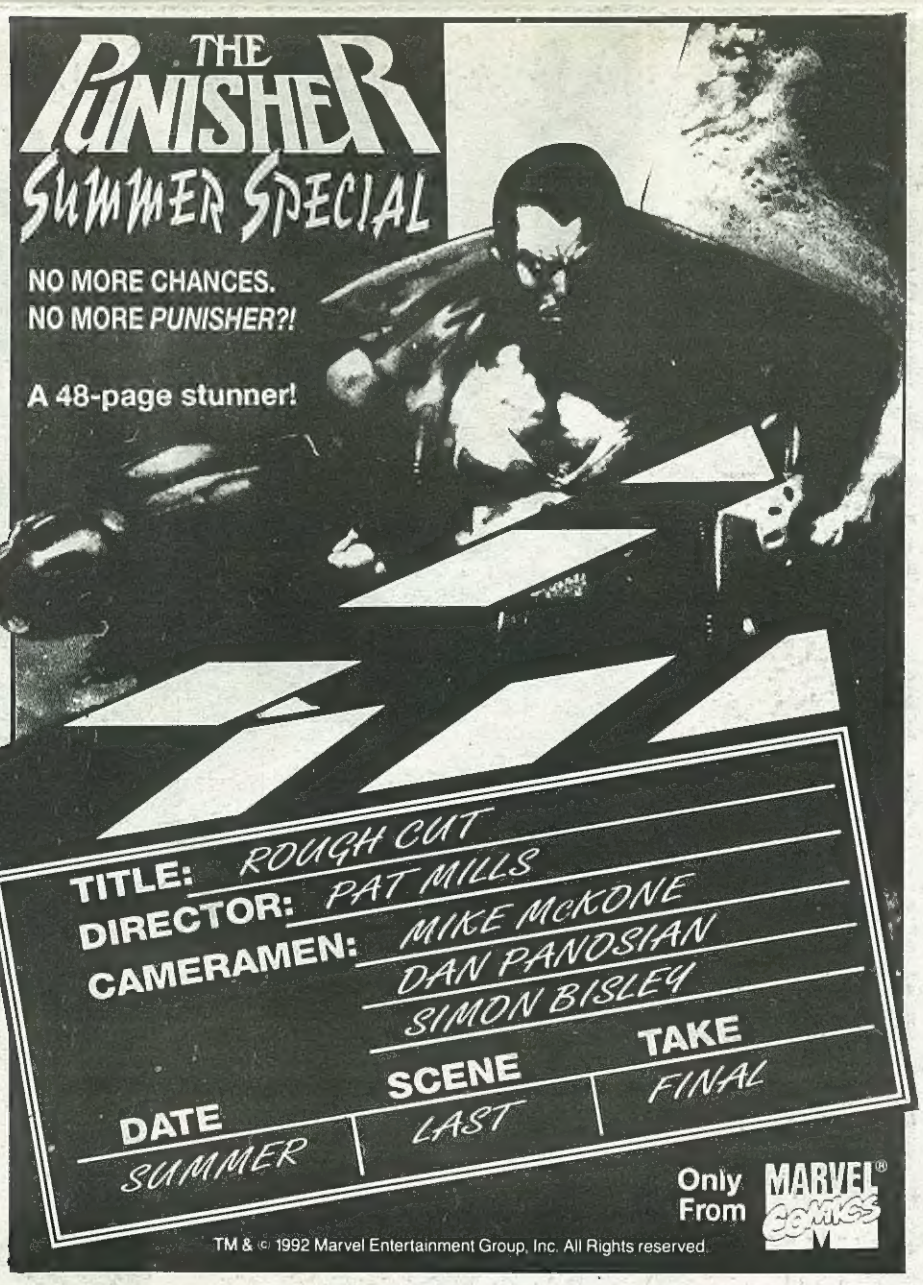
I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

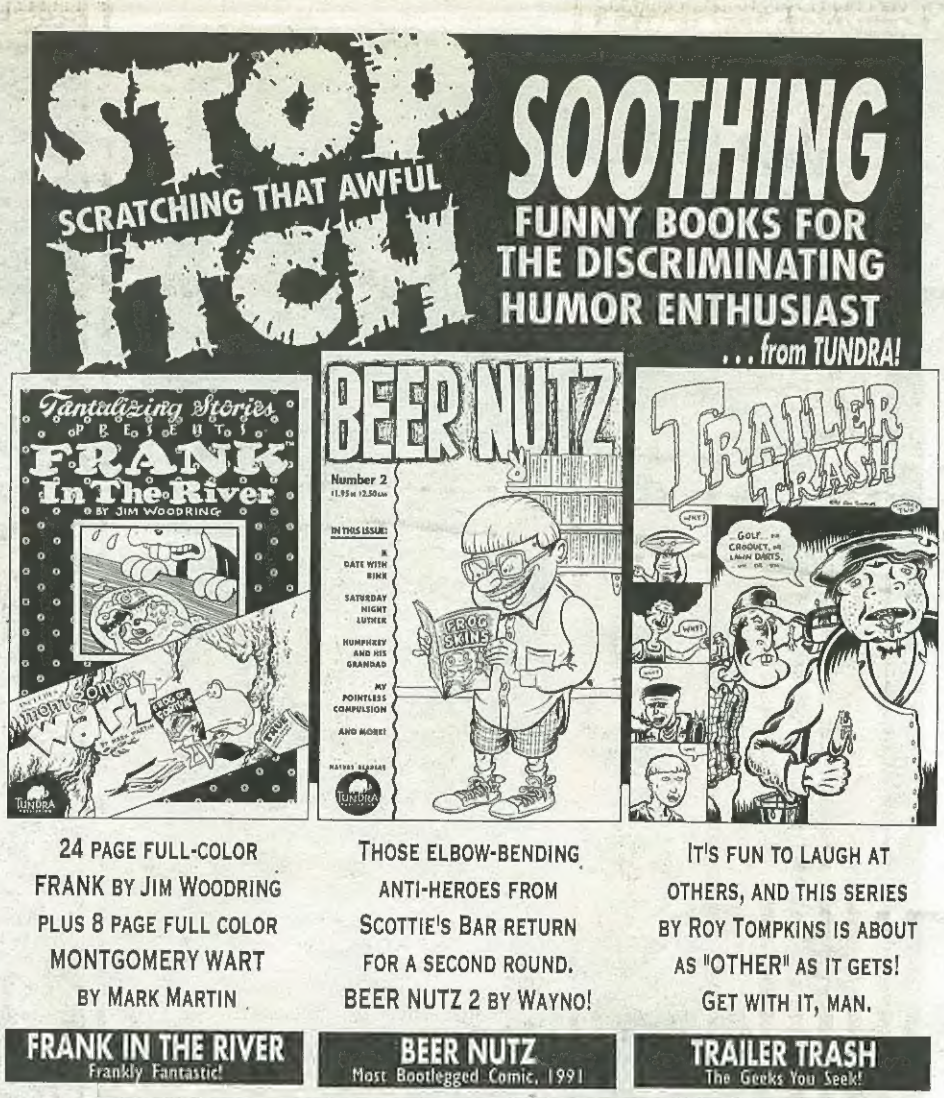
_____

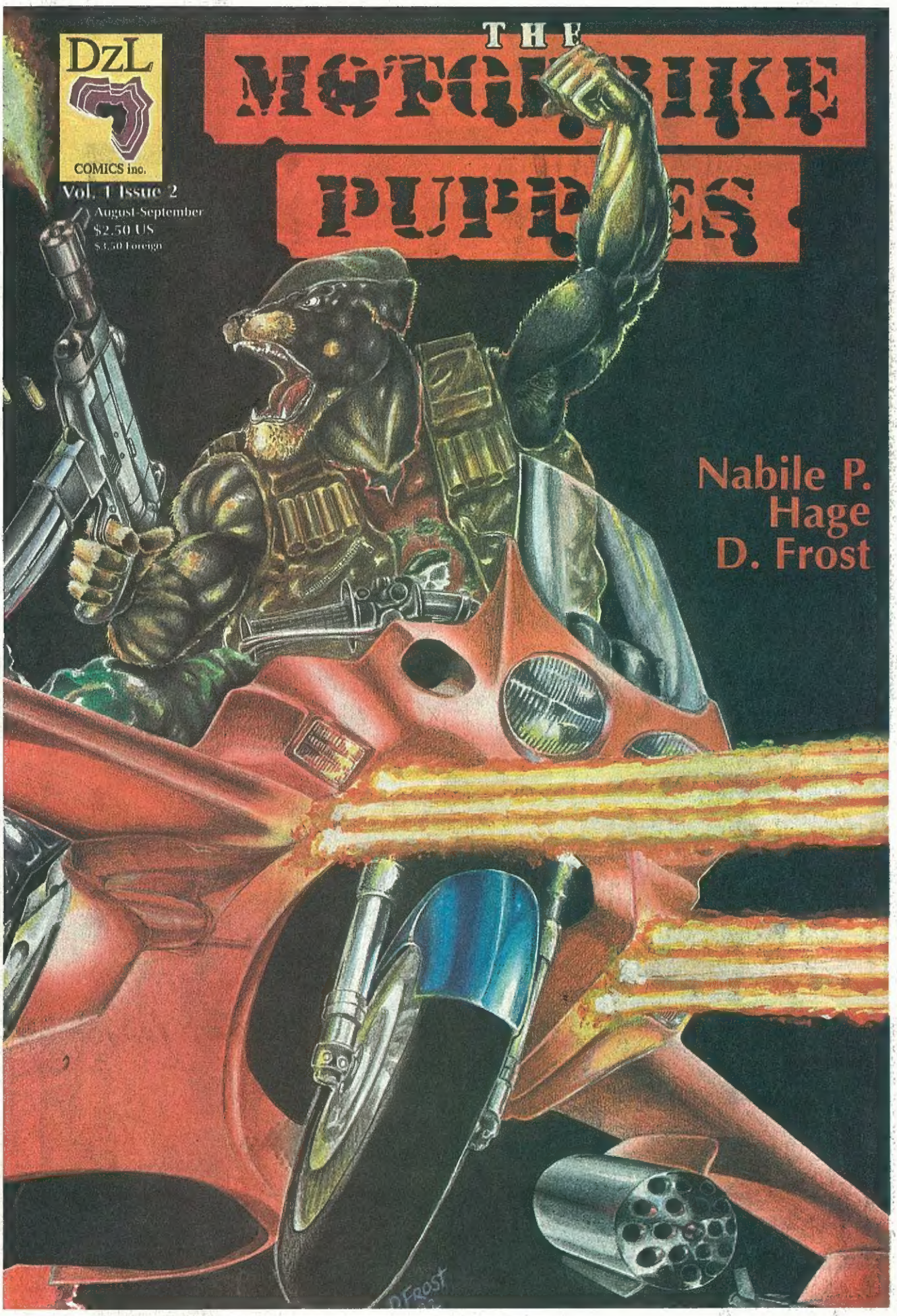
_____

_____

Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to *CSN!* Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!




STOP ITCH
SCRATCHING THAT AWFUL
SOOTHING
FUNNY BOOKS FOR THE DISCRIMINATING HUMOR ENTHUSIAST
...from TUNDRA!
Tantalizing Stories
FRANK In The River
BY JIM WOODRING
BEER NUTZ
Number 2
IN THIS ISSUE!
A DATE WITH RINK
SATURDAY NIGHT LUTHER
HUMPHREY AND HIS GRANDAD
MY POINTLESS COMPULSION
AND MORE!
FROG SKINS
TRAILER TRASH
WHAT?
GOLF... OR CROQUET, OR LAWN DARTS, OR...
24 PAGE FULL-COLOR FRANK BY JIM WOODRING PLUS 8 PAGE FULL COLOR MONTGOMERY WART BY MARK MARTIN
THOSE ELBOW-BENDING ANTI-HEROES FROM SCOTTIE'S BAR RETURN FOR A SECOND ROUND. BEER NUTZ 2 BY WAYNO!
IT'S FUN TO LAUGH AT OTHERS, AND THIS SERIES BY ROY TOMPKINS IS ABOUT AS "OTHER" AS IT GETS! GET WITH IT, MAN.
FRANK IN THE RIVER
Frankly Fantastic!
BEER NUTZ
Most Bootlegged Comic, 1991
TRAILER TRASH
The Geeks You Seek!
FROM TUNDRA IN JULY
HYENA
A CAUSTIC NEW HUMOR ANTHOLOGY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